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the computer system and its environment including the entities, the hierarchy thereof and non-hierarchical relations between the entities; and

a processor [(26)] coupled to the [receiving means and the storing means] policy system and the entity memory and operable to refine the high-level policy definition with reference to the permitted refinements thereto and the stored information about the entities to which the high-level policy definition relates in order to produce a refined policy definition deployable on the computer system.

A² 2. (amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, and including a user interface [(28)] with which a user [(10)] can interact with the apparatus.

A³ 4. (amended) An apparatus [(22,44)] for use in generating configuration information for a computer system [(12)] employing hierarchical entities, the apparatus comprising:

[means (42)] a policy system for receiving a definition [(24)] of a high-level policy[,] for the configuration of the computer system[,] and permitted refinements to that policy, the definition referring to a plurality of the entities;

a user interface [(28)] with which a user [(10)] can interact with the apparatus;

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a processor [(26)] coupled to the [receiving means] policy system and the user interface and operable, in accordance with the high-level policy definition, to present refinement information to the user via the user interface so that a refined policy definition deployable on the computer system can be produced.

A⁴ 6. (amended) An apparatus as claimed in [any of claims 2 to 5] claim 2, [and] further including a library [(14)] of policy templates [(24)], each template including a respective such high-level policy definition and respective such permitted policy refinements, the library being coupled to the [receiving means] policy system, and a desired one or more of the policy templates being selectable by the user via the user interface for supply to the [receiving means] policy system.

A⁵ 8. (amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim [6 or] 7 [when dependent on claim 3 or 5], wherein the processor is operable, in accordance with the high-level policy definition, to present refinement options to the user via the user interface and to refine the high-level policy definition in dependence upon options selected by the user via the user interface, and wherein the policy template format provides for each policy template to have a plurality of components executable in turn by the processor, at least one of the components being a flow directive and causing the

Author	Year	Country	Sample Size	Study Design	Findings
Wang et al.	2005	China	1,000	Case-control	Increased risk of lung cancer with high alcohol intake.
Li et al.	2006	China	1,200	Case-control	No significant association between alcohol and lung cancer.
Zhang et al.	2007	China	1,500	Case-control	Increased risk of lung cancer with high alcohol intake.
Chen et al.	2008	China	1,800	Case-control	No significant association between alcohol and lung cancer.
Wu et al.	2009	China	2,000	Case-control	Increased risk of lung cancer with high alcohol intake.
Yang et al.	2010	China	2,200	Case-control	No significant association between alcohol and lung cancer.
Xu et al.	2011	China	2,500	Case-control	Increased risk of lung cancer with high alcohol intake.
Guo et al.	2012	China	2,800	Case-control	No significant association between alcohol and lung cancer.
Hou et al.	2013	China	3,000	Case-control	Increased risk of lung cancer with high alcohol intake.
Wang et al.	2014	China	3,200	Case-control	No significant association between alcohol and lung cancer.
Li et al.	2015	China	3,500	Case-control	Increased risk of lung cancer with high alcohol intake.
Zhang et al.	2016	China	3,800	Case-control	No significant association between alcohol and lung cancer.
Chen et al.	2017	China	4,000	Case-control	Increased risk of lung cancer with high alcohol intake.
Wu et al.	2018	China	4,200	Case-control	No significant association between alcohol and lung cancer.
Yang et al.	2019	China	4,500	Case-control	Increased risk of lung cancer with high alcohol intake.
Xu et al.	2020	China	4,800	Case-control	No significant association between alcohol and lung cancer.
Guo et al.	2021	China	5,000	Case-control	Increased risk of lung cancer with high alcohol intake.
Hou et al.	2022	China	5,200	Case-control	No significant association between alcohol and lung cancer.
Wang et al.	2023	China	5,500	Case-control	Increased risk of lung cancer with high alcohol intake.
Li et al.	2024	China	5,800	Case-control	No significant association between alcohol and lung cancer.
Zhang et al.	2025	China	6,000	Case-control	Increased risk of lung cancer with high alcohol intake.

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9. (amended) An apparatus as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 3, or any of claims 6 to 8 when dependent thereon] claim 1, wherein at least some of the entities stored in the [storing means] entity memory are abstract entities, the [storing means] entity memory also including, for each such abstract entity, a pointer to data in the computer system representing an instance of that abstract entity.

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12/18/88	ALICE BROWN	101 OAK ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
12/19/88	CHARLIE WHITE	202 BIRCH ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
12/20/88	DAVID GREEN	303 SAGE ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
12/21/88	EVE BLACK	404 MAPLE ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
12/22/88	FRANK GRAY	505 CYPRESS ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
12/23/88	GRACE HARRIS	606 REDWOOD ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
12/24/88	HERB KANE	707 CEDAR ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
12/25/88	IVY LYNN	808 SPRUCE ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
12/26/88	JACK O'NEILL	909 WALNUT ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
12/27/88	JILL PETERSON	1010 PINE ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
12/28/88	JOHN Q. WATSON	1111 OAK ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
12/29/88	JANE R. HARRIS	1212 BIRCH ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
12/30/88	BOB L. JONES	1313 MAPLE ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
12/31/88	ALICE M. SMITH	1414 CYPRESS ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
1/1/89	CHARLIE D. WHITE	1515 REDWOOD ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
1/2/89	DAVID E. GREEN	1616 CEDAR ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
1/3/89	EVE F. BLACK	1717 SPRUCE ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
1/4/89	FRANK G. GRAY	1818 WALNUT ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
1/5/89	GRACE H. HARRIS	1919 PINE ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
1/6/89	HERB I. KANE	2020 OAK ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
1/7/89	IVY J. LYNN	2121 BIRCH ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
1/8/89	JACK K. O'NEILL	2222 MAPLE ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
1/9/89	JILL L. PETERSON	2323 CYPRESS ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
1/10/89	JOHN M. Q. WATSON	2424 REDWOOD ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
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1/13/89	ALICE P. M. SMITH	2727 WALNUT ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
1/14/89	CHARLIE Q. D. WHITE	2828 PINE ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
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1/17/89	FRANK T. G. GRAY	3131 MAPLE ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
1/18/89	GRACE U. H. HARRIS	3232 CYPRESS ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
1/19/89	HERB V. I. KANE	3333 REDWOOD ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
1/20/89	IVY W. J. LYNN	3434 CEDAR ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
1/21/89	JACK X. K. O'NEILL	3535 SPRUCE ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
1/22/89	JILL Y. L. PETERSON	3636 WALNUT ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
1/23/89	JOHN Z. M. Q. WATSON	3737 PINE ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
1/24/89	JANE AA. N. R. HARRIS	3838 OAK ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
1/25/89	BOB BB. O. L. JONES	3939 BIRCH ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
1/26/89	ALICE CC. P. M. SMITH	4040 MAPLE ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
1/27/89	CHARLIE DD. Q. D. WHITE	4141 CYPRESS ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
1/28/89	DAVID EE. R. E. GREEN	4242 REDWOOD ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
1/29/89	EVE FF. S. F. BLACK	4343 CEDAR ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
1/30/89	FRANK GG. T. G. GRAY	4444 SPRUCE ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
1/31/89	GRACE HH. U. H. HARRIS	4545 WALNUT ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
2/1/89	HERB II. V. I. KANE	4646 PINE ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
2/2/89	IVY JJ. W. J. LYNN	4747 OAK ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
2/3/89	JACK KK. X. K. O'NEILL	4848 BIRCH ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
2/4/89	JILL LL. Y. L. PETERSON	4949 MAPLE ST	ANYTOWN	CA	90210
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bound instances or derivatives of them.

A⁸ 11. (amended) An apparatus [(22,44)] for use in generating configuration information for a computer system [(12)], the apparatus comprising:

[means (20)] a policy system for receiving a policy [(18),] for the configuration of the computer system[,] in terms of a policy context referring to unbound entities and a policy statement;

[means (16)] an entity memory for storing, for each of the unbound entities, a pointer to data in the computer system representing at least one instance of that entity;

[means (20)] a rule memory for storing rules for interpreting the policy statement as instructions executable by the computer system; and

a processor [(20)] which is operable, with reference to the pointers, to bind the unbound entities in the policy context to instances of those entities, and, with reference to the interpretation rules, to interpret the policy statement into a series of instructions to the computer system referring to the bound instances or derivatives of them.

A⁹ 12. (amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim [10 or] 11, wherein the processor is operable to determine a group of the bound

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instances, and at least one of the instructions refers to such a determined group.

A¹⁰ 13. (amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the processor is operable to determine, with reference to the entity [storing means] memory, whether such a determined group is already defined in the computer system and, if not, to generate such an instruction to create the determined group in the computer system.

A¹¹ 14. (amended) A method [for use in] of generating configuration information for a computer system employing hierarchical entities, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a definition of a high-level policy[,] for the configuration of the system[,] and permitted refinements to that policy, the definition referring to a plurality of the entities; and

refining the high-level policy definition with reference to the permitted refinements thereto and stored information about the entities to which the high-level policy definition relates in order to produce a refined policy definition deployable on the computer system.

A¹² 16. (amended) A method [for use in] of generating

configuration information for a computer system employing hierarchical entities, the method comprising the steps of:

presenting refinement information, in accordance with the high-level policy definition, to a user via a user interface so that a refined policy definition deployable on the computer system can be produced.

providing a library of policy templates, each template including a respective such high-level policy definition and respective such permitted policy refinements; and

selecting one or more of the policy templates for refinement in accordance with input by the user via a user interface.

presenting refinement options, in accordance with the high-level policy definition, to the user via a user interface; and refining the high-level policy definition in dependence upon options selected by the user via the user interface;

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CONT wherein the policy template format provides for each policy template to have a plurality of components executable in turn during refinement, at least one of the components being a flow directive and causing such options to be presented to the user via the user interface and the refinement process to jump to one of a plurality of the other components in dependence upon the flow directive and the selection made by the user via the user interface.

A¹⁵ 21. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 14 [or 15, or any of claims 18 to 20 when dependent thereon], wherein:

the refined policy is in terms of a policy context referring to unbound entities and a policy statement;

the stored information about at least some of the entities relates to abstract entities, and includes, for each such abstract entity, a pointer to data in the computer system representing an instance of that abstract entity; and

the method further includes the steps of: binding, with reference to the stored information, the unbound entities in the policy context to instances of those entities; and interpreting, with reference for stored rules for interpreting the policy statement as instructions executable by the computer system, the policy statement into a series of instructions to the computer system referring to the bound instances or derivatives of them.

A¹⁶ 22. (amended) A method [for use in] of generating configuration information for a computer system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a policy, for the configuration of the computer system, in terms of a policy context referring to unbound entities and a policy statement;

storing, for each of the unbound entities, a pointer to data in the computer system representing at least one instance of that entity;

storing rules for interpreting the policy statement as instructions executable by the computer system; and

binding, with reference to the pointers, the unbound entities in the policy context to instances of those entities; and

interpreting, with reference to the interpretation rules, the policy statement into a series of instructions to the computer system referring to the bound instances or derivatives of them.

A¹⁷ 23. (amended) A method as claimed in claim [21 or] 22, further including the steps of determining a group of the bound instances, and referring to such a determined group in at least one of the instructions.

A¹⁸ 24. (amended) [An] A method as claimed in claim 23, further including the steps of: determining, with reference to stored

